China weekly Review

密勒氏評論報

Feudal Heritage in a Fukien District

PEKING PANORAMA
by DUNCAN C. LEE

"MY WIFE"
a worker's story by TUNG NAI-HSIANG

EDITORIALS:

MACARTHUR'S JAPAN
STRACHEY'S HUNTING TRIP

JUNE 10, 1950 JMP 4,000

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LETTERS From The People

Comments from readers on current topics are cordially invited: their opinions, however, do not necessarily represent the views of the China Weekly Review.

TRUE DEMOCRACY

To the Editor:

In this letter I should like to report on the recent popular election here, the first since Peking was liberated a year ago. There are about 2,500 households in the Seventh District. The residents are mostly working people. The Election Preparatory Committee divided the district into 450 groups according to the number of streets, and every street elected a representative to the District Representatives Meeting of All Circles. Up to May 24 about 253 representatives had been elected.

During KMT days the common people in this district knew there was a word "democracy," but their life was one of oppression. After liberation they began to have a taste of what "democracy" really means. For instance, during this election all the candidates were nominated by the residents themselves, and they themselves decided the number of candidates, the form of election—whether by show of hands or by ballot—etc. No wonder they considered it the most democratic election they had ever experienced.

A 60-year old elector said excitedly: "I confess that this is indeed the very first time in my memory of past long years that the government is asking the people's opinion." A shoemaker, recalling elections of the old KMT days, said: "Formerly when the KMT held its election for the National Assembly many people sold their houses to bribe the KMT." A manager of a small restaurant said, "Everything today is essentially different from the past. It is true democracy. The candidates were not fixed up beforehand, as in KMT times. Now it is up to us ourselves to elect anyone we like." It was because of this genuine democratic way of conducting an election that the elected representatives were greeted with unanimous applause the moment their names were announced.

Of the 5,128 residents taking part in the election, 2,389 were women. Not all the women fully understood what was meant by electing representatives. It is reported that when one woman was elected she was so bashful that she immediately ran back home.

During the three days of the election rumors were spread to the effect that those who were elected would be driven to the front to fight and those taking part in the election would have to fight in the rear. It was also rumored that after the election strict control would be imposed on the residents, and so on. This clearly shows that the KMT reactionaries will never relax their efforts to destroy the fruits of the people's victory. However, morning has dawned and before long the remaining shadows of darkness will disappear.

P. Y. WANG

Peking
May 28, 1950

STUDENT PLAYS

To the Editor:

Student groups in Tientsin are playing lengthy "thought pieces" on a definitely professional level. One such play, "Ssu Hsiang Wen T'i" (Problems of Thought), depicts student life at Peking Ke Ta. The play was written by the Revolutionary University students themselves and is being dramatized by the students of the Tientsin Municipal Midwifery School. More than sixty girl students take leading roles; and though most are male parts, only two men are "imported."

The first act opens with a dormitory scene on opening day at the school. New students are seen amusing themselves in their various ways —some going out to dance, one filching another's love letter and dramatizing it to the others, some scanning LIFE and being impressed with the convenient American kitchen and sparkling bath. The dormitory is in confusion and disorder.

Among the characters are the haughty and indolent KMT officer in US made uniform, the suave movie star-type "shao yeh" and his female counterpart who are crazy about dancing and slick clothes. There is the hollow-chested "scholar" who bows and scrapes and grins and spouts Confucian proverbs; there is the active boy who uses his energies playing practical jokes; there is the rich man's son who is sold on "things American." The student group leader who antagonizes his schoolmates by his too-far-leftness is well portrayed.

Uniforms are distributed and we see the students in a semblance of uniformity, considering themselves "progressive" by their change of clothes. But as the play progresses through realistic scenes of group leader discussions and students at varying degrees of advancement "struggling" together, we see the KMT officer hand over his pistol voluntarily once he sees he has no need of it. The "scholar" who has been agreeing with everything and everybody and says he fears nothing but the "yang ko," admits he is a KMT agent who entered the university by under-declaring his age by seven years. The "American-Way-of-Life" man finally decides helping dig air-raid shelters is also honorable. The group leader who was too far "left" realizes his error after much mental misery. The last to see his error is the handsome SACO man. . .

Throughout the play the political leaders are shown as the epitome of patience, explaining, gently leading, never shocked, never discouraged. Fine humor springs up constantly throughout serious thought. The curtain goes down on a gala "yang ko" scene in which even the old "scholar," still rigid in body though no longer in mind, joins. The warring individualists of the first act have finally evolved through cliques into a harmonious whole.

The groups of students and workmen in the audience filled the hour before the play by challenging each other to sing by original rimed "yells." It was a "battle of wits" in which the group that had the last word won. Some beautiful group singing was inspired by the challenges.

E. M. C.

Tientsin
May 20, 1950

HIGH TIDE OF STUDY

To the Editor:

It has been a full year since the liberation of Shanghai. In this past year we spent much time in political discussions, mutual criticism and self-criticism; thus our political consciousness has been heightened. The political work and social activities in which we engaged have created suitable and advantageous conditions for our present study.

Now we have fewer meetings because the situation throughout the country has changed. We realize that no definite line can be drawn between our political work and our studies and have found it to be true indeed that political work paves the way for technical study. A politically blind person is aimless and selfish in his study, caring for nothing but his own individual interests. The focus of our task

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MACARTHUR'S JAPAN

IT is now nearly five years since General MacArthur landed in Japan and assumed the post of supreme allied commander, charged with carrying out the policy of the victorious allies.

This policy, broadly, was to see to it that what remained of Japan's military might was destroyed and to "bring" democracy to the country so as to prepare for the eventual signing of a peace treaty and the re-entry of Japan into the family of nations. MacArthur was empowered to undertake such reforms of the country's economic, political and social life as were considered necessary to accomplish these ends.

The necessary changes, it was pointed out at that time, would include such matters as stripping the emperor of his "divinity," democratizing the political system so that genuinely independent and free political parties could arise, reforming the educational system, abolishing the old feudal-fascist police system, which extended to such lengths as employment of "thought police," and breaking up the giant zaibatsu monopolies which controlled the country's economic life.

In the beginning, MacArthur's headquarters issued a steady stream of directives and orders ostensibly designed to accomplish these tasks. Gradually, however, it became evident to most observers that this desire to turn Japan inside out was at best half-hearted and was growing more so with almost each passing month. As the months turned into years the nature of the occupation grew increasingly conservative until today it has turned into extreme reaction.

While the early reforms of the occupation could never have been considered drastic, they at least gave some initial hope that a few of the worst features of the old Japan would be changed. It was felt that consideration of future security alone would require the establishment and maintenance of adequate safeguards against a resurgent and unrepentant Japan.

Today, however, it is clear that the reform measures themselves were pitifully weak and that their implementation was scant. It is also abundantly clear that MacArthur is determined to repeal even these minor "reforms" and to proceed with the resurrection of the old Japan as rapidly as possible.

The reason for this policy is not difficult to determine. The most casual perusal of occupation statements and decrees indicates that MacArthur is chiefly concerned with what he claims is the "red threat" to Asia. Apparently he is prepared to approve of anything and anybody constituting an opposition to this "threat." Thus, MacArthur blandly reverses earlier restrictions imposed upon rightist elements and advocates re-imposition of pre-surrender restrictions upon progressive and democratic forces.

The latest—and most drastic—move of this kind was his directive early this week to the Japanese government ordering the "purging" of 24 Communist Party leaders from all political activity. Even the lawfully elected Communist members of the Japanese Diet are to be expelled —illegally, at that—while it was forecast that shortly all Communists will be expelled from the "civil service, the teaching profession and key industries."

Thus we find MacArthur preaching democracy and practicing anti-democracy. Whether or not he really believes in a "red threat" or whether this is merely an excuse to justify the reaction which he so apparently prefers is of course difficult to determine. However, the end result is obvious. Every effort is being made to bring the old Japan back to life.

A glance at recent headlines in the press is sufficient to obtain a fair picture of life in Japan today. Such a glance shows just how MacArthur is "bringing" democracy to Japan.

What the final result of this policy will be cannot be foretold at this time. However, several observations can now be made. In its early days the occupation was generally respected by the rank and file of the Japanese people because it was—contrary to what their leaders had led them to expect—a relatively orderly affair and because it promised to wreak vengeance only on those responsible for Japan's career of aggression. What's more, the directives issued during the first few months indicated that the allies were serious when they said that the Japanese people should be given a chance to throw off their old feudal overlords and to set up a representative, democratic government.

In those first days, MacArthur ordered the jails emptied of political prisoners, various political parties, including the Communist Party, were permitted to function legally, trade union organization was encouraged. The Japanese took such moves as signs of a new deal. However, it was not long before the Japanese began to discover that such moves did not herald a revolutionary change in the country's society. After a few such grandstand plays, which had the double effect of securing support for the occupation from the rank and file of the people and of putting the squeeze upon the zaibatsu and the other members of the old ruling class, the basic nature of the occupation began to emerge.

After a short period of "freedom" during which there was a rash of strikes as Japanese workers attempted to settle old scores with

management, MacArthur intervened in the role of strike-breaker. Today strikes are frequently termed "communist inspired political uprisings" and are frowned upon almost as severely as they were in the days when the emperor was running the country.

In the beginning there was much fanfare about democracy and good government. So far, however, the country has been governed by a series of bankrupt, bureaucratic regimes scarcely distinguishable from those of Chiang Kai-shek or Elpidio Quirino in their corruption and general malfeasance in office.

In an attempt to build Japan into the chief American anti-communist outpost in the Pacific, the occupation has become increasingly deaf to the wishes and desires of the people and has turned more and more to the old ruling cliques of the past. While MacArthur and his generals—one of whom has publicly boasted that Japanese troops will obey orders blindly unto death and are a commander's "dream"—may visualize

Day to Day Record of Life in "Democratic" Japan

Tokyo, March 7, "Sixty-five hundred armed Japanese police today paraded on the Imperial Plaza in front of Emperor Hirohito's palace."

Tokyo, March 7, "Japanese war criminals serving sentences in Japan will be eligible for parole after completion of one-third of their sentences, General MacArthur announced today."

Tokyo, April 6, "Police in Nagoya, industrial city in central Japan, on April 5 arrested four agitators who led 1,000 demonstrating laborers in a 'give us work' demonstration."

Tokyo, April 9, "Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida's name was linked publicly on Saturday with Noboru Satoh, president of the Goi Sangyo industrial company, arrested in February in a probe into alleged swindles in the sales of police force and fire brigade equipment."

Tokyo, April 19. "Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida today ordered a probe into government graft. . . On April 8 the name of the prime minister himself was linked to an alleged swindle . . . . In October 1948, the Showa Denko case—a political-industrial scandal—brought down the Ashida government with the arrests of Prime Minister Hoteshi Ashida, Deputy-Prime Minister Shehiro Nisho and Finance Minister Takeo Kurusu."

Tokyo, April 22, "The United States Far Eastern Economic Conference, which ended in Tokyo today, forecast the 'resurgence of Asia's economic strength and stability, in which 'a reconstructed Japan' must loom large."

Tokyo, May 2, ". . . Speaking on the third anniversary of the Japanese constitution today, General MacArthur said the nature of the Japanese Communist Party raised the question 'whether it should any longer be regarded as a constitutionally recognized political movement.'"

Tokyo, May 7, "A few days after General MacArthur hinted at banning the Japanese Communist Party, his legislation and justice branch chief has warned the Japanese against the 'gravediggers of democracy.' Dr. A. Coppler told the Japanese Civil Liberties Union meeting in Tokyo there had been historical precedents showing that excessive toleration of the enemies of free institutions had led to the downfall of all freedom."

Tokyo, May 16, "Students demonstrating against American 'interference' in education here today carried some of the most violent anti-occupation placards seen in Japan since the surrender. . . . The rally, attended by 1,000 Japanese, Chinese and Korean students, was held near the headquarters of Dr. W. C. Eells, Supreme Commander Douglas MacArthur's educational adviser, who advocates purging the universities of communist professors."

Tokyo, May 26, "Money dissipated during the second fiscal year of 1949 by officials of government *kodan* (public corporations) may reach 5,150,000,000 yen, according to a preliminary investigation. . . . All of the 15 *kodan* are under investigation for corruption.

Tokyo, May 27, "General MacArthur's headquarters has returned to the Japanese government 46 former Japanese warships, including the battleship Mutsu. . . . It is understood that the Finance Ministry will place the [grounded] warships on public sale on condition they be scrapped."

Tokyo, May 27, "Governor S. Yasui of the Tokyo metropolis and Governor Toshibumi Tanaka of Hokkaido, representing all prefectural governors of Japan, submitted to General MacArthur's headquarters today a petition for the return of the Kurile islands [ceded to the Soviet Union after VJ Day] and the Nansei [Ryukyu] Archipelago. . . ."

Tokyo, May 30, "A minor clash between United States army officials and Japanese workers occurred at a rally sponsored by the Democratic People's Front Tokyo Preparatory Committee on the Imperial Plaza today. . . . The skirmish took place when American army officials prevented the crowd from taking away notes of a speech recorded by a person reported to be an interpreter working for the occupation. . . ."

Tokyo, May 31, "United States occupation forces headquarters today took the unusual step in ordering the immediate trial of eight Japanese arrested yesterday afternoon during a Japanese demonstration. . . . The court will continue in session night-long until the case is concluded."

Tokyo, June 1, "The National Election Management Commission disclosed today that 749 people had been arrested on charges of violating the electoral law during the recent Japanese elections. The proportion of violations was five and a half times greater than during the election to Japan's lower house last year."

Tokyo, June 2, "Japanese and American authorities today indicated there was an increasing likelihood that the Japanese Communist Party would be banned. . . General MacArthur's intelligence chief, Major-General Charles Willoughby told the press that the American authorities [would] not permit communism to ripen in Japan 'or to get out of hand.'"

Tokyo, June 2, "Tokyo's metropolitan police chief Eiichi Tanaka tonight banned all outdoor political rallies or demonstrations here until after Sunday's elections. Hibiyi Park, where the communists have planned a 12-hour rally on Saturday, has been closed to the public."

Tokyo, June 3, "Eight Japanese were found guilty today by a United States provost court of attacking five American soldiers during the American Memorial Day parade on the Imperial Plaza here on May 30. They were sentenced to prison terms ranging from five to 10 years."

Tokyo, June 4, "Japan's voters will today elect 132 members to the House of Councillors in an atmosphere described by the Social - Democratic election committee chairman as 'tantamount to martial law.'"

Tokyo, June 4, "Four more Japanese war criminals have been paroled."

Tokyo, June 6, "The Japanese government said today it would use force if necessary to break strikes held in protest against action to 'purge' 24 Communist leaders. . . . Orders to carry out the 'purge' came from General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters. . . . Seven Diet representatives have three weeks in which to wind up their affairs at the Diet. Shunkichi Ueda, attorney-general, forecast action against the Communists in the civil service, teaching profession and key industries. . . ."

Japan as the force which will "stabilize" Asia in a form to their liking, there is every indication that such a possibility is most remote.

Even should they succeed in restoring the Mikado's Japan, they will be faced with a different Asia from the one which Japan overran a decade ago. The peoples of Asia are now busy throwing off the colonial yoke and it is unthinkable that Japan could duplicate her former conquest.

However, it is extremely unlikely that the old Japan can be restored. Already there are signs—corruption and inefficiency and oppression in government and mass discontent with the ruling regime—that a more likely probability is that Japan herself will follow the general trend now prevalent in this part of the world. The Japanese people do not like their present rulers and the latter's foreign supporters any better than the people of China liked the American-supported KMT. MacArthur is committed to a policy of ignoring the wishes and needs of the Japanese people and of granting support to discredited and oppressive ruling cliques. As we have seen in China, such a policy is doomed to failure.

STRACHEY'S HUNTING TRIP

ACCORDING to press dispatches from Malaya, British War Minister John Strachey was deeply impressed by his tour of jungle fighting fronts. The lengths to which Mr. Strachey—a former progressive who repudiated his political views and joined the ranks of British officialdom a few years ago—went in conducting his survey was indicated by the fact that upon one occasion he joined a patrol and participated in an unsuccessful attempt to kill a few Malayan guerillas.

Strachey, according to a press report on May 31, "went into the Malayan jungle today with a rifle to join in the fight against guerillas. He joined a Gurkha jungle patrol, which was searching for a guerilla camp near Jerantut and stalked through the undergrowth with them for nearly two hours. . . . Major-General R. E. Urquhart, general officer commanding Malaya, and Major-General H. Redman, director of military operations of the War Office, also went on the patrol. . . ."

Certainly one cannot but be impressed by the distance which Mr. Strachey has travelled in the past few years. From a severe critic of his government's colonial policy and an outspoken advocate of freedom for colonial peoples, he has, in the course of a relatively short time, become a fire-eating war minister desirous of bagging a few recalcitrant colonials himself.

It is significant that Mr. Strachey's present position is supported by the ultra-conservative *London Times*, long a supporter of the "empire." Commenting upon the Malayan situation the *Times* editorialized on June 1, the day following Mr. Strachey's trip into the jungle: ". . . No doubt the 'little wars' of England have been a chronic affliction for generations, and only go to prove that peace is not the natural condition of primitive races, and that the Pax Britannica has always to be imposed at a cost."

The whole business of Strachey's jungle patrol is both disgusting and sickening. It is disgusting because it shows clearly how a man who once professed sympathy for the oppressed colonial races has, for one reason or another, enthusiastically joined hands with the oppressors. It is sickening because it shows to what depths colonial administrators can descend—arranging a man hunt for a war minister in much the same fashion as they would organize a big game hunt for a visiting sultan.

However, Britain's colonial wars, and British colonial policy itself, are rapidly becoming things of the past. Today some 60,000 British troops are unsuccessfully battling no more than 5,000 Malayan guerillas. Despite the great preponderance in numbers, plus superior equipment such as armored vehicles and airplanes, the forces of British colonialism are fighting a losing battle against the poorly armed—but spiritually aroused—people of Malaya who give every indication of expelling their colonial overlords and gaining control of their own destiny in the not too distant future.

25 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

Completion of New Railway

June 6, 1925

Within a few weeks Chinese laborers, many of them recruited from the bandit sections of Kiangsu, Shantung and Anhwei, but now working under the direction of Dutch engineers, will drive the last spike in a very important railroad connecting Central Asia with the Pacific Ocean.

The railroad is the Lung-Hai and the section now being completed runs from the town of Hsuchowfu, located on the Tientsin-Pukow Line to the town of Haichow, also located in northern Kiangsu on the Yellow Sea. Trains will be running from the eastern coast of China for a distance of approximately 500 miles directly westward into the interior of China to the town of Shanchow in Honan province. What the ultimate destination is to be no one knows at present. The original concession to a French-Belgian group names the town of Sian in Shensi, but there are ambitious ones who picture this line tapping Tibet and connecting with the Trans-Siberian to the north or with the railways of British India to the south.

10 Years Ago In *The China Weekly Review*

Dunkirk Retreat

June 8, 1940

During the past 10 days the Anglo-French armies in northern France and Belgium have been withdrawn from the encircling ring of steel and fire with which the Germans surrounded them. Dunkirk was the point of evacuation, and the withdrawal will rank as one of the most remarkable episodes in military and naval history. Fighting fierce rearguard actions to cover their retreat to the coast, the Allied troops backed into Dunkirk and embarked from the port and neighboring beaches. Hundreds of vessels of all types and sizes were assembled at Dunkirk for the operation and they ferried to and fro across the English Channel with their human freights and whatever protection could be afforded them by Allied naval units and air forces.

Indomitable Hongkong

Hong Kong will be defended in the event of invasion—"there is no question of anything else"—the military spokesman in the British colony stated on May 30, according to United Press. Questioned regarding precautions taken against possible invasion by parachute troops, the spokesman reportedly said: "The lessons learned in Europe have not fallen on dry ground." The same report stated that the age limit for Hong Kong's volunteer forces is to be raised from 41 to 46 years.

Feudal Heritage in a Fukien District

An observer describes conditions in a rural district of Fukien province where centuries of feudal exploitation have left their mark on villagers and peasants.

ON the map Chuanchow is a very small dot, much smaller than many other districts or cities of Fukien whose names are well known. Its harbor is small and shallow, its land is hilly and poor and its people are poverty stricken.

However, Chuanchow is really a very important district in this province because it is the home of many overseas Chinese. As an earner of foreign exchange in past years it has played a relatively important part in the economy of the province.

According to official statistics for 1949, the number of emigrants from inside Chuanchow city itself totaled 4,752 as compared with a total population of 61,513. While no exact figures are yet available for the entire district, it is estimated that it contains upwards of half a million people and that the ratio of people living abroad is not vastly different from that in the city.

In fact, in some villages of the district, such as Shih Shi (Stone Lion), An Hai (Peaceful Sea) and Ching-Young (Green Plain), almost nine out of every 10 families have a blood relative living abroad, while in other places the ratio runs from one out of every three to one out of every seven families.

The differences in the ratio in different villages are due mainly to two factors: geography and heredity. Originally more villagers from the area south of Chuanchow city went abroad because this region has poorer land and is closer to the sea. Now, with relatives established abroad, it is easier for youths from this district to arrange a passage to the Philippines or to the South Seas than for youths living in the other districts.

Emigrants Return Rich

Actually the heredity factor is now the most important. In the past only the very poor would consent to leave their native land. Through the years, however, these poor emigrants returned rich beyond their neighbors' wildest dreams and now the young man who is able to go abroad and thus obtain a chance to gain wealth is considered extremely fortunate. Thus, it is only natural that those families which have relatives abroad use this "connection" to the fullest possible extent in securing emigration opportunities for the younger generation.

The chief concern of the majority of the parents in the district has thus been to secure an opportunity for a son to go abroad. Through the years there has grown up a distinct demarcation between the families of those who go abroad and of those who stay behind. It is visible in the houses, the clothes and even the manner of speaking. This development has naturally complicated the already involved feudal relationships between the various classes of society in the area.

While the new China will not be interested in "exporting" sons abroad in order to gain "foreign exchange," we cannot overlook the important part which this steady inflow of money from abroad has had—and still has—on the economy of this part of China.

According to figures compiled by the local office of the Bank of China, truly vast sums of money pour into this area from abroad. Prior to the first world war, remittances totaled about 20,000,000 silver dollars annually. From 1918, the amount increased each year until 1931 when remittances reached the peak of 72,000,000 silver dollars. Even during the depression, remittances never fell below 40,000,000 silver dollars per year.

No Permanent Enrichment

From the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War until 1941, when the Pacific War began, remittances reached the district regularly, totaling in the latter year CNC$365,000,000. The period 1941-1945 was one of great suffering in Chuanchow since the Japanese occupation of the Philippines and the countries in the South Seas virtually cut off remittances.

In the past the land has not fundamentally profited from this large inflow of wealth. Basically the district is so poor that it cannot support its population, and the bulk of the remittances from abroad went to feed those who could not make a living off the land. Further, semi-feudal customs, the general backwardness of society, plus the unstable nature of government deterred those who might have been inclined to invest in industry or some other constructive activity aimed at increasing local wealth through production.

As has been the case in other areas of China, the old landed upper classes have been content—even eager—to see little if any changes made in the economy since such alterations inevitably brought forth a host of new "problems" which were rather difficult of solution inside the old feudal framework of society. Changes were a challenge to the old order and were thus to be avoided.

So today we find that the main outward signs of material development are the large houses and villas built by the more wealthy returnees. Whenever we see a house that decently can be called a real house, nine times out of 10 we can conclude that it was built with overseas money. Around Chuanchow city, particularly in the districts lying to the south, the landscape is dotted with magnificent dwellings which brighten the "face" of the families living in them.

Interestingly, the construction of big houses and the spending of substantial sums upon weddings and other ceremonial occasions, such as the birthdays of various local gods, are the main outward extravagances of the wealthy returnees. For the mass of the people, aside from the occasions when they participate in the local festivals, many of which are connected with superstitious and "religious" rites, life is a very austere affair.

* * *

Diet of Potatoes

AN observation of the diet of the people is sufficient to show just how economy and austerity have become ingrained. Instead of rice the staple food is potatoes. The farmers sow potatoes, reap potatoes and eat potatoes. In the areas south of the city, where the fields depend entirely upon rain for the water supply, the farmers often are especially hard pressed. For example, during the last three years, which have been exceptionally dry, only one crop has been harvested each season.

This uncertainty of harvest and the scantiness of food has forced the villagers to establish a "formula" by which they prepare and consume their food. When the potatoes are first harvested, they are eaten in a variety of ways. However, the bulk of the crop is laid away for the lean months between harvests. First, the potatoes are cut in long thin strips and bars and dried in the sun. Later, when the supply of dry potatoes begins to run low, a further economy is instituted.

Dried potato strips are rinsed in water. The precipitates are then mixed into a powder which is put into a pot with dried potato shreds and rice and cooked into a kind of substitute rice.

Since the district is so poor the problem of increasing the food supply is not easy. However, with land reform there is certain to be considerable improvement. Also, the matter of how best to direct the money from overseas into more productive channels which will result in permanent enrichment of the district is being tackled by the people and the authorities. Certainly it will be possible, through the institution of reforms and constructive development projects to inaugurate a long range plan whereby each year will see an improvement in overall conditions.

* * *

Local Superstitions

THE difficulties which the new authorities are up against in bringing about changes is well illustrated by the situation regarding village gods and local superstitions which yearly drain away large sums of money.

In every village there is a god taking special care of the village. The origins of most of these gods have been forgotten, but nevertheless their hold upon the villagers has always been strong. When a person is sick, when it is a god's birthday, etc. great sums of money are wasted in burning offerings. On special occasions, the entire village may turn out for a day's celebration. Neigh-

boring villages, not wishing to offend the god, frequently will also send offerings. It is not unusual upon such occasions to see long lines of people proceeding from one village to another beating gongs and setting off firecrackers.

Substantial sums are lavished upon the temples which house these gods. Competition between the villages is great and each tries to outdo the other in lavish ceremonies, sometimes including dramatic performances and other entertainment.

While it is easy to become irritated with such displays and to criticize the people for their backwardness, it is first necessary to understand the basic reasons for this attachment to old superstitions. Primarily this whole business of village gods, temples, and so on has its roots in the old tribal society of hundreds and thousands of years ago. We must also understand that conditions in feudal China, and even under the KMT, were such as to make enlightenment and progress exceedingly slow.

A Class Weapon

Actually, right up to the moment of liberation the old superstitions were "employed" by the exploiting classes in many rural areas as an added method of maintaining their grip on society. Proof that continuance of these "religious" beliefs is due to the condition of society and the maneuverings of the landlords and other "upper" classes can be seen from the fact that once an area is liberated and the old forms of economic, political and social exploitation ended, the hold of these ancient deities is quickly weakened.

However, the fact remains that village superstitions are a factor which must be reckoned with. In addition to their evil influences, these periodic celebrations do serve as festive occasions for the mass of the people and thus constitute needed holidays for a people whose day to day life is spent in heavy work. Thus, it is necessary to replace them with other types of celebrations which, while performing the function of recreation, also serve an educational or otherwise constructive purpose.

The seriousness of this situation is illustrated by the fact that right up to the liberation of Chuanchow, the various villages were engaged in a feud which at times took on the aspects of civil strife—which was, on the surface, the result of a "religious" dispute.

About two years ago an altercation developed at the celebration of the birthday of the local god in one village. The trouble began when the villagers of Shia Chow went to a village lying at some distance to "beg" fire to bring back to their own temple, known as a temple of the Eastern Buddha. This is a common practice and is supposed to bring merit to the village. On this occasion the villagers of Shia Chow realized, when they were returning with the fire, that if they followed the road, which passed through the neighboring village of Huang Chia, they would have to pass in front of the latter village's temple, which was of the Western Buddha sect. This they were loath to do since some villagers claimed that it would be a slight to their own god to carry the fire in front of another god first.

They solved the problem by making a detour through the fields, going around the village of Huang Chia. However, this created another difficulty since this obvious avoidance of Huang Chia, in the eyes of the residents of that village, constituted an insult to their god. Thus began a dispute between the two villages which resulted in considerable injury and property damage before it was settled. Each village secured allies from among neighboring villages and at times the feuding took on fierce proportions. The quarrel was finally ended following liberation through a compromise settlement.

The incident of the fire was in itself insufficient to stir up all this trouble. Obviously there must have been additional factors involved, such as the existence of bad relations beforehand between the villages, or the desire on the part of ruling circles in one or both villages to seize the first available pretext as an excuse to commence hostilities. However, it is significant to note the attachment of the villagers to their gods, to such an extent that they can be made to believe that an "insult" to a god is sufficient cause for disturbing the peace.

Economic Basis

While the basic reasons for feuds and vendetta are undoubtedly economic, feuds and quarrels of various natures have existed in this district for so long that their "reasons" appear many and are very complicated. With old grievances weighing heavily upon the villagers, any incident is likely to be seized upon as an excuse to reopen old arguments.

Roughly, however, we do know that for the last 100 or so years Chuanchow has been divided into two main factions and that in the past most local arguments, unless settled promptly, have tended to become more and more complicated, involving one village after another, as the disputants gathered support for their "side." The end result not infrequently led to a major feud in which the district split in half, with the villages of the "Western Buddha" forming a front against the villages of the "Eastern Buddha."

From our experience in various parts of China, we know that these feuds, which do exist in some of the more backward and poor rural areas, especially in places where superstitions going back to old tribal days are yet existent, wax and wane largely with the economic conditions of the area. We also know that such feuds are often launched or renewed at the instigation of local potentates who wish to divert the downtrodden peasants' attention from themselves. If, for instance, there is a poor harvest in one district, the landlords and other local gentry may try to turn the starving peasants' attention away from their own full-to-bursting granaries by reviving an old argument with a neighboring village.

* * *

Education is an Answer

ONE thing is certain. Education for the masses will put an end to this sort of thing for all time. One of the first tasks undertaken since the liberation of Chuanchow has been to survey the educational situation in the district. In the city itself some 57 percent of the people are illiterate, while in outlying villages the percentage of illiteracy runs to as much as 90 percent. In one village of about 1,000 people, which was inspected, less than 100 attended school.

What little work has been done in building and maintaining schools has largely been due to the efforts of the returned overseas Chinese. In those villages which have a higher percentage of "sons" living abroad, there generally are some educational facilities, usually only primary schools, but sometimes secondary schools. Such institutions are private and are founded and subsidized by wealthy returnees. Even in such "fortunate" villages the facilities are wholly in-

A few minutes' rest — *by Tzeng Ching-chu*

adequate and certainly do little to aid the illiterate mass of the people, since only the relatively well-to-do can afford to pay the fees and/or to dispense with the labor of a child so as to enable the latter to attend school.

For example, in Ta Fang (Big Room) Village, where some 90 percent of the families have relatives abroad, there is a primary school with 170 students. This village contains more than 1,000 people. Despite the presence of this school, the most optimistic estimate places literacy at no more than 40 percent. And this village has far better educational facilities than most of the other villages in the district.

It will take time to remedy this situation, but efforts are already being made. As in other parts of liberated China, the farmers are beginning to learn through their associations, through their village cooperatives, and so on. In addition, every possible measure is being taken to expand and increase the formal education facilities for both children and grown ups.

* * *

Status of Women

ONE would expect to find the social status of women in such a backward area very low. The high rate of illiteracy has of course contributed to this situation. Born the inferior of men, the women live and die as the servants of their "masters." Except in the case of the very wealthy families the girls are destined to toil from the days of childhood.

In any village we can usually see groups of young boys playing in the streets and open space, but rarely do we see any girls thus enjoying themselves. On the contrary, we see girls of no more than six shredding potatoes, drawing water or gathering faggots. The market places of the city are full of these village girls peddling firewood which they gather on the mountains and shellfish-like oysters which they pick up on the beaches. Young girls are everywhere to be seen, tilling the fields, washing clothes in the streams or carrying loads on the road.

This situation is a result of the old feudal social system in which women were treated almost as a race apart from men. The exploitation of women, however, seems greater in this area than in many others. Partially this results from the fact that it has become traditional for the men to leave home in an effort to earn money, either going abroad to work or to the city to trade. Thus, many of the jobs in the field, as well as the menial tasks, fall to the women.

The men have naturally become accustomed to their privileged position in life and find it difficult to change their old habits. Just as small boys romp and play while little girls are supposed to do chores, the men, when they find it possible, frequent the tea houses and wine shops, leaving the job of running the household to the women.

Sale of Girls

Since women are so useful, it is the custom for villagers to buy girls from very poor families. Frequently they become articles of labor, much like animals. However, such purchases are often made for the purpose of acquiring a daughter-in-law. As a child, the girl works for the family, while later on, when she is grown, she will be married to a son before the latter leaves for abroad. This enables the man to produce a few children—and thus insure the family line—before leaving. The job of the wife is to raise the children, look after the grandparents, keep the house and wait for the return of her husband, which may be many, many years. Certainly the lot of these women is anything but happy.

This is a problem which has required urgent attention. The new marriage law recently passed by the people's government outlaws forced marriages and makes the sale of girls illegal. Women now have the right to dissolve marriages not of their own choosing. However, custom is a difficult thing to overcome and much education will be necessary

Shanghai's Street Hawkers

Street hawkers and stallkeepers have been a problem in Shanghai for many years. During Kuomintang inflationary days, tens of thousands were forced to become street peddlers in order to maintain a livelihood. Recently the local press has carried a number of reports on the new municipal regulations which are designed to help the legitimate hawkers and bring order to Shanghai's streets.

* * *

THE problem of stallkeepers and street hawkers in Shanghai is a big one, for it is estimated that they total more than 100,000. They sell everything from bean cakes and cigarettes to American army and UNRRA supplies.

Under the Kuomintang, thousands of people fled to the city from the villages to escape the KMT army press gangs and were forced to became hawkers to maintain a living. Still others came from the working class, but because of currency inflation and industrial stagnation were thrown out of work.

Even after liberation this problem has continued. Some of the city's poor people had the wrong conception and thought that the liberation of Shanghai meant that there would be no regulations to observe. Thus, they set up stalls anywhere they liked, hindering traffic and creating disorder. Even some of the factories began selling their products at stalls, competing with stallkeepers.

Recently, as a result of the bombings and the blockade, many factories had to stop operations and workers were deprived of employment. Those thus affected set up stalls to eke out a living. Also, among the new stallkeepers and hawkers are many criminals, former members of landlords' strong arm squads and local racketeers who fled from the old liberated areas.

The city government has set up a system of classifying the stalls and hawkers and licensing them. According to the provisions for the collection of the business license fee, only those with a capital of JMP200,000 are liable to pay the fee. Over 50 percent of the stallkeepers and hawkers are vegetable vendors, and their capital rarely exceeds that amount.

The amount of capital of each stall is determined in a democratic meeting of the stallkeepers and hawkers themselves. This work is now going on in all districts of Shanghai. They are organized in groups of 10 and each group sits down and discusses the purpose of the classification system and the licensing.

At first, there were many doubts expressed for some feared that the license fee, which is now very small, might be increased. Others thought they might have to pay a high business tax. It was explained to them that in order to control the market and equalize the taxation burden, it is necessary to collect a fixed license fee on capital exceeding the prescribed capital of hawkers. If they were exempted from this fee, it would enable some of the factories and stores to set up their own stalls and compete with the hawkers, which would create a chaotic market.

Praising the new regulations, a recent issue of the *Ta Kung Pao* said that through such democratic meetings for classifying the stalls, there is little to gain on the part of bad elements by concealing goods or making false reports of their capital. The cadres taking part in the grade classification only assist in solving difficulties. It is the hawkers themselves who make the final decisions and who in this way are raising their political level and helping the city economy, the paper declared.

before this old practice can be stamped out.

* * *

Progress Being Made

WHILE these habits, many of which are centuries old and rooted in the deepest traditions of feudalism, are indeed difficult to break, progress is being made. Naturally the new authorities cannot simply issue regulations abolishing all the old, evil practices and aspects of country life. All the authorities can do is explain the situation to the people, showing them how the old system was based upon the enslavement of the many by the few and try to show them the direction in which they can move to better their conditions. The actual change must be brought about by the people themselves.

Although this area is one of the more backward regions and although it has not been liberated long, numerous changes are already evident. Economically, conditions have improved considerably. The getting rid of the corrupt, oppressive KMT bureaucracy and the plague-like KMT army has been a great help. The resumption of remittances from abroad has also been a great benefit. In March alone US$470,000 was remitted to the Chuanchow district. Meanwhile, not so much is heard about feuding, while the "trips" of the local gods grow less frequent.

Only the feudal prejudice against women shows little signs of breaking down. Marriages are still largely decided by parents. However, the younger generation is learning fast and it will undoubtedly only be a very short time before the youths of the district will demand a say in the matter of their marriage.

The government well understands the value of this human treasure and continuous efforts are being made to develop its potentialities. Sometimes, though, the results seem slow and some tend to become discouraged. However, such an attitude is a mistake. As the old cadres know—and as the young volunteer workers are fast learning—the people can be taught many things, but at the same time the workers have much to learn from the people.

When a problem is presented to the people correctly and explained satisfactorily, not only will the people cooperate, but frequently they can and will suggest improved methods of seeking a solution. This is as it should be since one of the main objectives is to help the people to help themselves.

In one brief session recently, local business circles pledged a subscription of 2,000 piculs of rice for the rebuilding of the Chuanchow Hospital. The laborers, too, whose earnings are terribly low, are answering the call of the government and are leading the campaign to buy Victory Bonds. Gradually progress is being made in the construction of a new Chuanchow, a Chuanchow that will fit into the general scheme of the new China.

— D. Y. LING

A worker's story

MY WIFE

by Tung Nai-hsiang (董廼相)
Translated by Hu Ching-hsien (胡競先)

AFTER liberation our factory began to hum with activity in order to restore production. All the workers participated in this task, raced with time to repair and put everything into order so as to support the army in its southward drive.

I also joined in this work. As a result I never returned home earlier than 8:00 or 9:00 p.m. Invariably I received the following welcome from my wife. "Everybody else has come home long ago. Why should you be so late? Yet I don't see you earn one extra *catty* of millet. . ."

I explained to her that the factory now belongs to us—the people. But it only made her more angry. She said: "Then why don't you bring back the stuff in the factory. That would solve all our problems! All right, if it's your factory, you can go and get food and drink from it. There's no one to look after the children and I can't cook extra meals!"

I turned around and took a look. The fire had died out and the rice had grown quite cold. What could I do except eat the cold rice. Luckily, I was young and could take it. But, I thought to myself, it would be quite useless for me to explain to her even if I wore out my tongue in doing so. It would be better if she attended the Workers' Family Members' Discussion Group.

However, I had not reckoned with the difficulties I would have in getting her to go to the meeting. She was so backward that it would be easier to ask her for her life than to make her go to such a meeting! After much thinking I hit upon a wonderful idea. I would not try to mobilize her, I would go and mobilize fellow worker Old Tong's wife, who lived in the same compound as we did.

So I said to Old Tong's wife: "There will be a Women's Discussion Group at our factory tomorrow. Will you go?"

She said: "Ah-yu! I won't go. Such a long distance, it would break my shins walking so far!"

Meeting with this stiff rebuff at the very outset, I could do nothing but resort to lies. So I said: "Oh, there'll also be shows!"

She hastily asked: "What shows?"

And I replied: "The White Haired Girl and Wang Shiu-luan."

She immediately showed great interest, asking me the hour the show would start.

"One o'clock sharp," said I. "Do you want to go?"

"Of course. Is your wife going too?"

"No, I don't think so. Such a long distance and two babies to carry. It won't be much fun!"

"But it's silly to miss such good shows! I'll speak to her. I can look after one of the children and we can go together. Don't you think this a fine idea?"

About the Author

Mr. Tung Nai-hsiang is employed at the North Railway Station in Tientsin. His formal education ended after a few years at primary school. He has only recently appeared on the scene as an author, as he did not begin to write short stories until after the liberation of Tientsin. The present story, "My Wife," first appeared in the Jen Min Wen Yi magazine (人民文藝) and has been reprinted in several Chinese newspapers including the Tientsin Jih Pao and the Nanking Hsin Hua Jih Pao. It has been hailed as an illustration of how liberation is raising the cultural standard of workers and bringing new awakening to their families as well.

"I don't care! That's your business."

"Why shouldn't we go? To-morrow the two of us will go together, and I'll tell Old Tong to reserve good seats for us!"

* * *

THE following day, the two of them were quite prompt. In fact it was only 12:30 when they turned up. Members of the Union's Executive Committee ran back and forth to look after them, treating them with candies, peanuts and cigarettes. At 1:00 p.m. sharp the meeting started, and the military representative and the union chairman spoke to the sixty-odd women gathered there about women's shaking off their traditional yoke. They pointed out their newly-gained privileges to the women, but also told them about their new responsibilities.

After the meeting, the two men even took them into the workshop to show them how their husbands worked. When they saw their husbands working so hard that they could not even spare the time to wipe the perspiration from their faces, their eyes bulged with awe, for they had never before seen such intense work.

Old Tong's wife turned around and whispered to my wife: "Oh! How tiring it is to work like that! And you won't even cook for him when he comes home late. . ."

And my wife whispered back: "Don't speak of me, how about yourself. . ." And both blushed in shame.

I seized the chance to throw in some additional words: "Oh, you women are liberated now. How can you still bother with such things as washing and cooking? Tomorrow, we'll buy some wood and make shrines for you to live in!" They did not answer.

I warned myself that I would get sharp words that night. But I was wrong. She didn't make one com-

plaint, except to tell me that she felt a little tired from her excursion. I hastened over to Old Tong's to apologize to his wife for having fooled her. She not only was not angry, but asked: "Don't you feel worn out after working like that all day long?"

Upon hearing this, I could not pass up the chance of explaining a few things to her.

I said: "It's true that the work is hard. But it is much better now than when the Japanese and the Kuomintang were there. With the Japanese dwarfs, getting a beating was as common as eating one's daily meals. One worked for a month and got only 200 pounds of bean cakes! If the Japanese caught one stealing the least little thing they sent one to the gendarmarie. Many workers were beaten to death just because of this.

"And what good did the Kuomintang bring when they came? The take-over officers had not a thought of our living needs. If there was no money when the pay days rolled along, no one dared to say a thing. One moan and it was sure to be heard by their countless ears and eyes. After that you would be lucky to keep alive. The least charge would be that you were a follower of the Communists. If the Eighth Route Army had not come when they did, I tell you, we would have perished long ago.

"But since the Communists are here, the workers are consulted over every matter, and we even make the decisions. You saw the other day that we work very hard, but the strange thing is that we're all doing it voluntarily. There's no overseer. We figure that it doesn't matter if we have to work hard now. We are sure to get good days in the future! Don't you think so too?"

* * *

AFTER attending the first meeting, my wife's change began. When I came home, she no longer complained. One night, because of attending a meeting, I did not reach home until it was 11:00 p.m. Although the season was not cold, the night breezes were quite piercing. I thought to myself: "If I have to eat cold rice, I'm sure to be ill!"

But when I turned the corner, I could see patches of yellow light streaming out of my windows. I wondered why she did not turn off the light when she went to bed. But when I entered the room, I saw that the fire was still going, strong, warm and red. She busied herself heating the noodles and warming the cakes over and over again. I finally asked: "Why don't you go to bed? It's late!"

She replied: "The military representative said that while the men have their work, we women also have our responsibilities, and I won't be backward!"

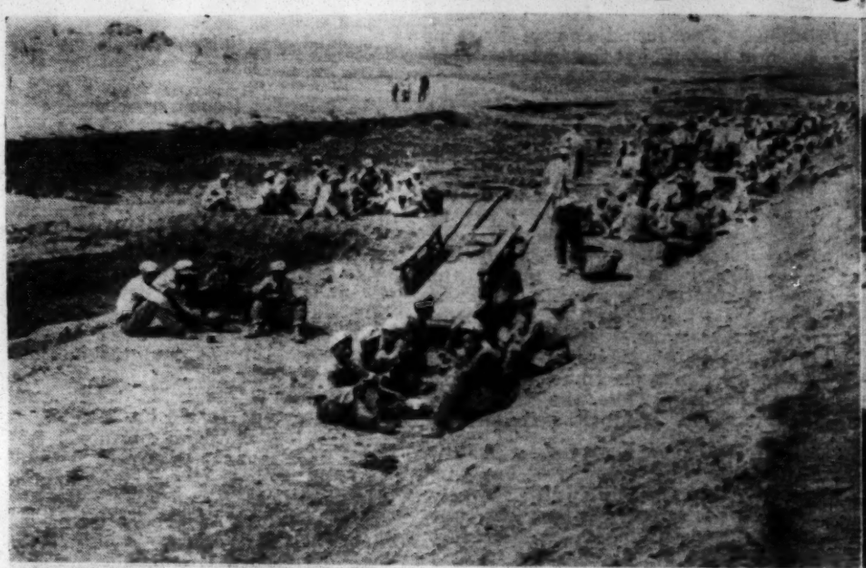
From that time on, my wife began to attend these women's discussion group meetings, and she attended them voluntarily, too! What's more, her relations with me also grew more and more harmonious. She had never been to school, and one night she suddenly said: "When you read your books, read them aloud, so that I can hear and also know what's in them!"

I happily consented, and whenever she came to a passage that she did not understand, she would ask me to explain it to her. When it was something that I also did not understand, I would make a mark and ask others at the factory the next day. For more than two months, each night when I returned home, she had already put the children to sleep and was ready to start our learning.

In the late summer, it rained continuously, and there was simply no dry fuel to be had for lighting the stove. So she used my old novels to start the fire. One day when I came home and sorted my books, I found several new books also missing, including Lu Hsün's "Collection of Essays."

I asked her for my books, and she countered by saying that I had told her that she could burn them. I hastily asked her if she had seen a book with four black characters on a white cover. She reached a hand underneath the bed and produced a book that was already half torn. Sure enough it was the Lu Hsün volume!

The People Fight



Throughout almost the entire country the people have pooled their efforts to fight the flood threat which will come with this summer's rising waters. During the past winter and spring seasons literally millions have been at work strengthening embankments, dredging old channels and digging new settling basins, canals, etc. While the major undertakings have been along the courses of the country's two main waterways, the Yangtze and Yellow rivers, hundreds of other projects have been and are being carried out in areas threatened by lesser streams.

These pictures were taken at the Yu Ting Ho Project, in North China, where the Yu Ting River, which flows beneath the historic Marco Polo bridge and empties into the Grand Canal, is at last being brought under control. With a flood discharge of 5,000 cubic meters per second, some 12 times the flow of the

But before I could blame her, she already started to blame me: "You know the characters but won't teach me, and then you are angry with me because I've burned your book. I tell you if you don't teach me the characters, I'll burn up all your books tomorrow!"

I was mightily pleased when I learned that she wanted to learn the characters. She was only 20, and should be learning things and progressing continuously. Then and there, the two of us drew up a teacher-pupil contract. There would be no joking and talking during the learning period, and no matter how busy both of us were, no day should pass without at least one character being learned. Should the teacher be lazy and wish to suspend class, the pupil must insist on learning.

Her mind was quite made up and she agreed to all the terms. I wrote down 50 characters on squares of cardboard, and she learned them all in one month's time: It was not easy, for all was not smooth sailing. Sometimes the children would cry and not go to sleep, and we had to spend a great deal of time in hushing them.

* * *

THEN all of a sudden, she sank into a low mood. I wondered what was the matter, for she was eating rice and wheat flour and I had not mistreated her. Could it be that her old habit had come alive again—getting into a mood whenever someone else ate something good or whenever some other woman had a new dress? I said to myself that if she was still like that I would teach her a good lesson.

After she had put away all the cooking utensils I asked her: "Why are you so unhappy these days!"

She said: "Ask yourself. Whenever you open your mouth you want me to examine my shortcomings! Now, it's time you examine yours. It will soon be New Year, and neither of the children has new clothes. I heard that you always go to the restaurants for your lunch. Does that mean liberation to you? If so, let me tell you that we women are also liberated. Now I have a suggestion to make."

I said: "Go ahead. Say whatever you have to say."

She said: "You get your pay in two more days, don't you? Give me all the money, and I'll run the household this month, and I guarantee you that I'll do a good job of it."

So that was it! She wanted to run the household. And nothing could suit me better. Two days later, when I got my pay I actually turned all the money over to her. But I had not reckoned with the tough time I would have in drawing my personal allowance. It was given me each morning, and she had everything calculated. Five hundred dollars for cigarettes, 800 dollars for two bowls of dumplings, plus a little leeway and I got no more than 1,500 dollars a day, —a slash of 50 percent! I consoled myself with the thought that at home I still had cakes to eat made of white flour. But on the following day even that was changed. The food consisted of millet bread and whole wheat noodles. I complained at the sight of this and said: "Why do we have to eat this kind of food?"

She said: "Haven't you been telling me to eat coarse food all this time? You told me that the peasants are eating rice husks, and we should therefore be thrifty too. Isn't this being thrifty? If I run the household, I have the say. It's coarse food on week days, and white flour on Sunday."

I had to agree to this plan. The surprise came at the end of the month! Both kids wore new clothes! She didn't buy anything for herself for the New Year. Instead she bought a pair of leather shoes for me. I had to admit that she had run the house better than I had done.

Everything is changed since the Communists came, even my nagging wife. Today she is not only a good cook, but also an expert housekeeper, carrying her responsibilities well.

...ght Flood Threat

Grand Canal, this river has long been North China's most difficult waterway to control.

Photo at upper left shows a group of PLA soldiers taking time out from their work for lunch. Lower left shows another group of PLA men studying during one of their regular rest periods. As flood season approaches, no time is wasted, so regular study periods must be sandwiched into free moments. Some workers paste characters on their wagons and wheelbarrows so that they can learn while they work. Upper right shows soldiers carrying earth to one of the embankments. Lower right shows a group of the women workers who have taken a moment off to pose for their picture. In background workers can see be seen tamping earth on crown of dike.

Peking Panorama

The old beauty spots are the same, but a great deal of reconstruction work is underway in China's capital and government workers are living simply.

PEKING is once again China's capital, as it has been during different stages in China's history. Until the Kuomintang changed the name Peking (literally, northern capital) to Peiping and moved the seat of government to Nanking (southern capital), Peking had been the nation's capital under three dynasties totaling about 500 years.

To arrive at Peking now from noisy Shanghai is like setting foot in an entirely new world. The magnificent palaces, temples, pavilions, bridges and arches with their yellow and green tiles glistening in the sunshine expand your outlook. The peace and tranquility, together with the fresh air, give you a feeling of composure. The spaciousness of the public places and private dwellings clear away mental encumbrances accumulated in the industrial cities of the south.

Peking is noted for beautiful scenic spots and places of historical interest: The Summer Palace on Wanshow Hill built by the Manchu Empress Dowager Ts'u Hsi, the four lakes, Chungshan Park, the North Sea Park, the palaces of the Ming and Ching emperors. But liberation has brought changes to this historical city, just as it has to other places in China.

Simple Life

First of all, there is the new spirit of austerity. Generally speaking, northerners lead a simpler life and have a lower standard of living than southerners. Today, the 2,000,000 people here, led by the hard-working government officials, have further cut their standard of living. As one put it, "This is a difficult year, but it will soon be over under the new government. We have difficulties, hope and the means to overcome obstacles."

Typical are the low salaries of government functionaries and teachers. An average staff worker gets only 180 or 270 pounds of millet, or JMP200,000 or JMP300,000 a month. The pay of a government minister is around 900 pounds of millet.

Unlike Shanghailanders, almost all the people in Peking, irrespective of sex and age, wear dark blue or grey uniforms and cloth shoes. It seems that everyone here thinks it an honor to be simply dressed. If you put on some fine clothes, your friends examine them and calculate their cost in terms of millet.

A young man dressed in western clothes is certain to attract great attention from all sides. Modern girls in foreign style clothes such as are seen in Shanghai would doubtless make an impression on the Peking people, but of the kind that would put a mental distance between these "old-fashioned parasites" and themselves.

The city has been undergoing a renovation since its liberation in January 1949, and especially since the establishment of the Central People's Government last October. Reconstruction work in the downtown areas, as well as in the suburbs, is well under way. The 101,000 meters of sewer are being repaired for the first time since they were laid down in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

The four lakes: West Sea, Front Sea, Rear Sea and Small Sea, totalling about 200,000 square meters in area and formerly used for the personal enjoyment of the emperors, are being dredged by the joint effort of peasant workers and PLA soldiers.

Three hundred trucks and 900 carts are being used to haul the mud out to the suburbs, where farmers use it for fertilizer. This work in the interests of the health of the population is planned to be completed by July.

City Repair Work

The Hataman Gate is being rebuilt by members of the PLA in order to ease traffic congestion at that point. Small rivers in the suburbs and the downtown area will also be dredged. Irrigation ditches, 12,325 meters in length, have already been completed in the suburbs.

All efforts are being concentrated to make Peking a center of the country's communication system. At present there are through trains to the Northeast, Shanghai, Sian, Hankow, Paotow and Jehol. A network of highways has been built around Peking.

There is telephone service to all main cities throughout China and to Moscow, Rumania and North Korea. Telegraphic service to all parts of China and the world operates effectively. Last month regular air service to Chita and Sinkiang was inaugurated under the efficient management of the joint Sino-Soviet Civil Air Transport Company.

Peking's students have played an important part in China's history. They can well be proud of the May Fourth Movement which they began 31 years ago, their anti-Japanese activities prior to and during the last war, their anti-hunger strike under KMT rule and their enthusiastic support for the PLA and the Central People's Government. To date, almost one-half of the students have joined the Communist Youth Corps —an immense new force for China's future.

In line with the government's policy of production, 74 middle schools and 13 universities and colleges have set aside part of the students' leisure time for growing vegetables, horticulture and farming. It is estimated that they have already plowed about 280 acres of land alloted to them by the government.

Educational work is being extended. To combat illiteracy 26 spare time schools have already been set up with an enrolment of 200,000 students, 15,000 of whom are laborers. The largest cultural center was inaugurated a few weeks ago at the famous Tai Temple, formerly the place of ancestor worship for the Manchu emperors. Now countless people visit it every day.

The well-known Peking Library is a favorite center for students and for scholars engaged on their own studies. It is always crowded to capacity. I was particularly interested in its newspaper room, where newspapers and magazines of every province are available.

The most interesting method of teaching the masses is through reading service stations, where someone reads China's famous new stories aloud to illiterate listeners. Other work is done through the children's library at Tien Chiao (Heavenly Bridge.) This library concentrates on new picture story books.

Many bookstores which deal in second-hand books and scrolls, in fact the majority of the bookshops, are replacing their ancient goods with new ones. Pao Wen Tang, the biggest store of this kind, reports a good profit after turning its trade in this new direction.

Many stores on the busiest street, Wang Fu Ching, have put up Russian signboards or advertisements. Although interest in the Russian language is thus growing, many schools and colleges still have English as their first foreign language course, with Russian as an alternative. Four foreign language periodicals are on sale here: *People's China*, *Daily News Release*, *China Weekly Review*, and a Russian language newspaper, *New World*.

Idleness Gone

The beauty spots and historical buildings still attract thousands of visitors. Every day of fine weather brings out the crowds. But there is a difference. I was interested to see the poorest food, clothes and utensils of farmers exhibited alongside the costly clothes of the Manchu emperors. This certainly points up the exact degree of contrast between the two extremes.

I had often heard of the old, philosophizing, idle, Pekinese who did nothing but carry a bird in a cage and pace the Tien Bridge for a day's enjoyment. I did my best to get a look at them, but failed, for they are gone. They have probably hidden themselves away, or maybe they even do some work to cover up the shame of idleness. Even the 1,239 monks and Taoists of the 654 temples, as well as the former prostitutes, have turned to production work. Work is the order of the day.

— DUNCAN C. LEE

CHINA AFFAIRS

ECONOMIC

Balanced Budget

SOMETHING new has been added in the way of China's finances. From an economy shot through with chaos and corruption under the KMT, a new situation has arisen in which government receipts and payments are nearly balanced as a result of the centralization of finances beginning in March of this year. According to Finance Ministry statistics, debits during March showed an 80 percent reduction when compared with January, and a 71.8 percent reduction when compared with February. The national budget in April was nearly balanced.

As a result of centralized government control over receipts and expenditures, the Central People's Government has been able to fix all kinds of expenses according to actual conditions. Supplies for supporting the PLA, famine relief and economic recovery have thus been assured without depending on the printing presses for an inflated currency. As pointed out in a Peking story appearing in the Shanghai *Ta Kung Pao*, a balanced budget is a thing which the Kuomintang failed to attain during several decades in spite of all methods used. The question facing the present government is how to cut down expenses and readjust revenue to completely eliminate debits for this year.

Private Industry Aided

PRIVATE factories all over China are being aided through their present difficulties by large-scale orders placed by state industrial and commercial enterprises. Much of private industry, which until price stabilization, made its profit out of price fluctuations rather than legitimate and efficient operation, had been unable to adapt themselves immediately to the new situation. However, as a result of government assistance many of them are now entering into the spirit called for by China's new democracy, which gives mutual benefit to both labor and capital.

From all the principal industrial and commercial cities of China come accounts of large government orders as well as advances of credit. Through its various branches, the China Miscellaneous Goods Company, one of the largest government trading agencies, has spent JMP232,000,000,000 (over US$6,000,000) in April alone in placing orders with private factories.

Government help to private enterprises has not been limited to those in the larger cities. Private establishments in Kaifeng, Shihchiachuang, Sian, Changsha and numerous smaller cities also have received government attention. However, it has been in the larger cities, such as blockaded Shanghai where the main emphasis has been laid. The first result of all such encouragement to private industry has been that many enterprises, formerly running at a loss, now are able to at least cover their overhead and keep up production with some of them beginning to make a sizable profit.

A *NCNA*, dispatch dealing with government aid to private enterprise reported: "Private concerns are making serious efforts to improve their methods of operation. Enterprising industrialists agree that provided they improve their methods of operation and are not afraid to invest money and energy, there are great prospects before private industry as the Chinese home market expands."

Large Investments

AN equivalent of US$700,000,000, in terms of 7,920,000 tons of foodstuff, will be invested in economic construction in China during the current year, according to Deputy Chairman Liu Shao-chi of the Central People's Government. This decision is reported to have three significant points.

In the first place, the fact that the government is making such an enormous economic investment at present when military expenses still take up more than one-third of the total government expenditures indicates bright prospects and a wave of economic construction throughout the country.

Secondly, more than half of the US$700,000,000 will be invested in the Northeast, which will be turned into an industrial base. In less than a year, the number of workers in the Northeast has been increased by 240,000, wages raised by 27 percent, and the number of private industrial enterprises by 23 percent. There are now no more unemployed in the Northeast, but on the contrary there is a shortage of workers. Living standards have risen and thus the demand for consumers goods has increased.

In the third place, the investment of such a large sum of money is highly indicative of China relying on her own efforts. According to the Hongkong *Ta Kung Pao*, the amount of US$700,000,000 for economic investment is more than double the Soviet loan and is an indication that although China needs the assistance of friendly nations she is still relying on herself.

KMT Kidnappers

ONE out of every seven able-bodied men in the Choushan islands was dragooned and taken off to Taiwan by the fleeing KMT in its pellmell flight from the islands last month, according to the New China News Agency. The total thus kidnapped was more than 30,000.

Kuomintang troops were reported to have surrounded villages in the dead of night, breaking into homes and dragging away all the men they could lay hands on regardless of whether their victims were peasants, boatmen, merchants, teachers or students. Victims were said to have been stripped and their heads shaven clean before being put into army uniforms and herded into waiting ships bound for the KMT's lair in Taiwan. Many who refused to board the KMT ships were shot and their bodies dumped on the waterfront or along the beaches.

Meanwhile, as Chiang's island throne melted down to only Taiwan the PLA liberated the Lachiwei and Sanchiao islands of the Wanshan group southwest of Hongkong. A unit of the 4th Field Army of the PLA mounted an attack on the two islands to smash the KMT blockade of the mouth of the Pearl River. During the battle, according to the NCNA, the PLA smashed the KMT naval defenses and sank three naval craft.

Safety in Mining

A PROGRAM for the strict observation of safety measures in coal mines is being carried out this month following a directive issued by the Ministry of Fuel Industries.

Improvements in ventilation systems and measures to prevent flooding are of foremost importance. Each colliery is to have a safety organization and safety lamps, a fundamental necessity always ignored formerly, have been issued to miners. After September miners may refuse to go down in the pits which are still without safety devices on the winding gear.

Apart from regular inspections, an urgent over-all inspection will be made of safety conditions in all collieries. Miners' representatives will supervise the carrying out of all safety measures.

According to a Peking report by the *NCNA*, coal mines already have attained considerable success in safety work since liberation. The Tsiaotso Colliery, known as the worst in north China under the KMT, reduced its mortality and injury rates 79 percent and 76 percent respectively in the first quarter of 1950 when compared with last year. A general reduction of about 50 percent in accident rates was reported in the Northeast after a recent over-all inspection of safety devices.

Such achievements, though only preliminary and on a small scale, stand in sharp contrast to the past when accidents were a daily phenomenon in the pits.

Planned Cotton

A UNIFIED plan to keep the cotton mills of Shanghai and other east China cities supplied with raw cotton has been worked out at a recent east China textile conference. Under the plan agreed upon cotton from all over China will be procured to feed the

3,600,000 spindles in east China. The conference was attended by representatives from management and workers of both state and private mills.

The new unified plan, according to *NCNA*, will take advantage of the improved means of transportation in the country and there is growing confidence that the present temporary difficulties are being overcome and the cotton industry is being developed on a sound footing.

Under the KMT, east China, where the bulk of the nation's textile industry is concentrated, used to get more than 60 percent of its raw cotton from abroad. Following the liberation of Shanghai, little foreign cotton was available. However, despite the KMT blockade and air raids, the people's government has been able to keep 77 percent of the spindles turning with home grown cotton brought, with great difficulty, from the interior.

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WITH voluminous orders placed by state trading organs, Shanghai machinery plants, cotton mills and other industrial plants have been able to carry on and intensify their operations. In order to meet the need of manufacturers, the East China Foreign Trade Control Bureau has granted US$2,000,000 of foreign exchange to import such raw materials in May and June as are needed by 14 lines of local industries, including private dyeing and weaving, rubber, dyestuff, paint manufacturing, enamel, tanning, iron and steel refining, aluminum rolling, machinery, ship building and so forth, as well as the public utility enterprises.

Indicative of the improved industrial situation was the steady rise in the city's power output during May. According to available statistics, the power output during the first week of May was 11,340,000 KWH; during the second week, 12,460,000 KWH; and during the third week, 12,880,000 KWH. The average power consumption during the third week of May showed an increase of 11 percent compared with the average of April, and an increase of 14 percent compared with the average of March.

Side by side with the gradual rehabilitation of industrial production, the business of private-operated commercial and native banks is also taking a turn for the better. According to a *Hsin Min Pao* report, two-thirds of local banks realized profits for the month of May, and one bank even netted more than JMP3,000,000,000. The loans issued by the Chu Hsin Chen Bank rose from JMP2,800,000,000 at the end of April to JMP3,900,000,000 during May, and those issued by the Lien Ho Bank were also increased by JMP1,300,000,000. The State Bank of China has recalled half of its bad debts, while the bad debts of the Continental Bank have also been reduced from JMP2,000,000,000 to JMP1,600,000,000. By the end of May, the four joint public and private banks, namely the Sin Hua Trust, Savings & Commercial Bank, the National Industrial Bank of China, the Commercial Bank of China and the Ningpo Commercial & Savings Bank, carried a balance of loans to the total of JMP102,700,000,000, showing an increase of 20 percent compared with the end of April.

In the commercial field, all enterprises that serve the interests of the people are improving. The volume of business of the six big universal providers and department stores is gradually increasing. Their total business turnover during the last week of April averaged JMP180,000,000 daily, but in the third week of May it jumped to JMP320,000,000 daily, registering an increase of some 75 percent.

In addition, transactions in the wholesale market and out-of-market transactions all registered hikes. The total volume of business of eight basic commodities during the third and fourth week of May were all higher than that of the second week. As for curb transactions, 877 bales of cotton yarn were sold during the second week of May, 1,018 bales during the third week, and 1,242 bales during the fourth week.

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12-lb. cloth	250,000	245,000
Rice, 1st grade	255,000	250,000
Battleship flour	72,500	68,500
Peanut oil	440,000	485,000
Coal briquette	19,000	19,000
Kerosene, Kuokwang	103,840	103,840
Koo Pan soap	167,000	215,000

NATIONAL

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China's Delegates

MENG Yung-chien has been appointed Chinese representative to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations. In the telegram to the UN which announced the appointment, Minister of Foreign Affairs Chou En-lai also asked when the delegation appointed by the Central People's Government can participate in UN work and when its representatives can participate in the meetings and work of the various organizations and agencies of that body.

At the same time Chou En-lai demanded the expulsion of the KMT delegates to the International Civil Aviation Organization. Emphasizing the point that the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China is the only legal Chinese government, the foreign minister formally informed the ICAO "that the so-called 'delegates' of the Chinese Kuomintang reactionary remnant clique have no longer any qualifications for participating. . ."

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Mechanized Farming

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Smith, Bender and Captain Young

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Press reports from Honolulu, where Marine Sergeant Elmer Bender and Navy electrician William Smith held their first interviews, quoted the two as saying they had lived well by Chinese standards and were impressed by the sincerity of the Communist program.

More details have been received from a fellow passenger on the SS Hunan, which took them from Tsingtao to Hongkong.

"Those folks back home are going to be awfully disappointed," they said when they boarded the ship, this passenger reported. "Those guys didn't harm us at all. No beatings, no forced labor, no third degree."

They said they had asked to be allowed to work in the fields with the peasants but this request was refused. It was explained that there was fear lest the Americans call it "forced labor" later on. Finally, when it was learned that one of the two knew something about radios, he was brought some work and for the last few months was able to repair radios for the PLA.

When permission came for their release and the two Americans were taken to Tsingtao to catch a ship for Hongkong, a tailor came around with samples of material. They picked material for a new suit each. Their "hosts" also provided them with new shoes and pocket handkerchiefs.

In addition to paying for their passage to Hongkong, the People's Government authorities—despite the shortage of foreign exchange in China—gave Smith and Bender each $250 in US currency for travelling expenses.

Apparently, however, there is no desire on the part of the American press to play up this aspect of their internment. An editorial in the New York *World Telegram and Sun* called it "arrogant banditry" on the part of the Chinese to have detained American servicemen who had been reconnoitering their military installations, and complained the men were being released with "no apologies at all."

And a dispatch from Long Beach, California, where the two first landed in America, "clarified" some of the remarks made to the press in Honolulu. "Marine Sergeant Elmer Bender," the dispatch stated, "said . . . that his statement of Thursday that the Chinese are better off under Communist rule applied only to Tsingtao which suffered food shortage shortly before the Communist seizure."

Meanwhile, another US airman has made his appearance with a similar tale of unimpeachable treatment while in Chinese Communist hands. This man, James E. McGovern, a pilot in the employ of General Chennault's Civil Air Transport, was released at the border of Hongkong last week after having been held for six months in Nanning and Canton following a forced landing on a flight from Hongkong to Kunming.

Despite the link between CAT and the Chinese Nationalists, in whose service the line has operated evacuating high army officials and performing similar duties, the Hongkong dispatch reported Mr. McGovern said he "was not questioned extensively nor was he requested to sign any confession of being guilty of invading China's skies." He described his treatment as being "very good by Chinese standards."

By contrast is the KMT treatment of the captain and crew of the British vessel Sing Hing, detained by the Nationalist Navy near Amoy. Reports from Hongkong, where the ship went following its release, say the Nationalists threatened to execute the skipper, R. A. Young, for attempting to run the blockade.

The chief officer of the ship, M. Mercer, was reported as saying that the Nationalists "acted like a gang of pirates," robbing officers and passengers of all valuables, including cameras, radios, watches and rings, forcing the crew to sell their possessions to buy food, and submitting Young, himself, and the chief engineer to physical violence.

The study in contrasts should be obvious to all but the *World Telegram and Sun.*

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FROM all available accounts the two American airmen who made a forced landing near Tsingtao while on a reconnaissance mission for the US armed forces emerged from their 18-months' custody with no complaints. Instead, they told a story of friendly and considerate treatment on the part of their PLA captors.

Press reports from Honolulu, where Marine Sergeant Elmer Bender and Navy electrician William Smith held their first interviews, quoted the two as saying they had lived well by Chinese standards and were impressed by the sincerity of the Communist program.

More details have been received from a fellow passenger on the SS Hunan, which took them from Tsingtao to Hongkong.

"Those folks back home are going to be awfully disappointed," they said when they boarded the ship, this passenger reported. "Those guys didn't harm us at all. No beatings, no forced labor, no third degree."

They said they had asked to be allowed to work in the fields with the peasants but this request was refused. It was explained that there was fear lest the Americans call it "forced labor" later on. Finally, when it was learned that one of the two knew something about radios, he was brought some work and for the last few months was able to repair radios for the PLA.

When permission came for their release and the two Americans were taken to Tsingtao to catch a ship for Hongkong, a tailor came around with samples of material. They picked material for a new suit each. Their "hosts" also provided them with new shoes and pocket handkerchiefs.

In addition to paying for their passage to Hongkong, the People's Government authorities—despite the shortage of foreign exchange in China—gave Smith and Bender each $250 in US currency for travelling expenses.

Apparently, however, there is no desire on the part of the American press to play up this aspect of their internment. An editorial in the New York *World Telegram and Sun* called it "arrogant banditry" on the part of the Chinese to have detained American servicemen who had been reconnoitering their military installations, and complained the men were being released with "no apologies at all."

And a dispatch from Long Beach, California, where the two first landed in America, "clarified" some of the remarks made to the press in Honolulu. "Marine Sergeant Elmer Bender," the dispatch stated, "said . . . that his statement of Thursday that the Chinese are better off under Communist rule applied only to Tsingtao which suffered food shortage shortly before the Communist seizure."

Meanwhile, another US airman has made his appearance with a similar tale of unimpeachable treatment while in Chinese Communist hands. This man, James E. McGovern, a pilot in the employ of General Chennault's Civil Air Transport, was released at the border of Hongkong last week after having been held for six months in Nanning and Canton following a forced landing on a flight from Hongkong to Kunming.

Despite the link between CAT and the Chinese Nationalists, in whose service the line has operated evacuating high army officials and performing similar duties, the Hongkong dispatch reported Mr. McGovern said he "was not questioned extensively nor was he requested to sign any confession of being guilty of invading China's skies." He described his treatment as being "very good by Chinese standards."

By contrast is the KMT treatment of the captain and crew of the British vessel Sing Hing, detained by the Nationalist Navy near Amoy. Reports from Hongkong, where the ship went following its release, say the Nationalists threatened to execute the skipper, R. A. Young, for attempting to run the blockade.

The chief officer of the ship, M. Mercer, was reported as saying that the Nationalists "acted like a gang of pirates," robbing officers and passengers of all valuables, including cameras, radios, watches and rings, forcing the crew to sell their possessions to buy food, and submitting Young, himself, and the chief engineer to physical violence.

The study in contrasts should be obvious to all but the *World Telegram and Sun.*

Articles of Interest:

China's National Capitalists

The function of the national bourgeoisie in the Chinese revolution is examined in an article "Why is it Necessary to Unite with the National Capitalists?" published in the fortnightly magazine "Hsueh Hsi", Volume I, No. 6. The discussion centers around two questions: 1) Why are the national bourgeoisie an object for unification and not a target for extinction by the working class, and 2) what policy is the Chinese working class adopting toward the national bourgeoisie and what is the basis of such a policy.

* * *

SUMMING up the political line of the Chinese Communist Party in present day China as "a revolution led by the working class, based on the alliance of the workers and peasants, and rallying the working class, peasantry, petty bourgeoisie, national bourgeoisie and other patriotic democratic elements against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism," the article goes on to examine the character of the national bourgeoisie as contrasted with the bureaucratic bourgeoisie. It explains that in China's semi-feudal and semi-colonial revolution the Chinese bourgeoisie, due to its different relations with imperialism and feudalism, is divided into two main blocs—the big bourgeoisie and the national bourgeoisie—which hold contradictory economic positions and play different roles in the people's democratic revolution.

Drawing upon Mao Tse-tung's work "The Chinese Revolution and the Communist Party," it states the big bourgeoisie has "a compradore character. . . serves the foreign capitalists of imperialism and is reared by them to have multifarious connections with the semi-feudal influences of the rural districts. . . the big bourgeoisie have not been the motivating force of the Chinese revolution but a target of it. . . " On the other hand, "The national bourgeoisie have suffered from the oppression of imperialism and enthralment of the remnant feudal influences and . . . they are one of the motivating forces of the revolution."

Quoting from another work by Mao Tse-tung, "The Current Situation and Our Tasks," the article outlines the development of the big bourgeoisie bloc (also known as bureaucratic bourgeoisie) into "compradore, feudal, state-monopoly capitalism" which it states formed the base of Chiang's regime. Such capitalism, it is pointed out, exerted pressure on the petty bourgeoisie as well as the working class, but was also harmful to the middle-class bourgeoisie, i.e. the national bourgeoisie. To eradicate the bureaucratic bourgeoisie is essential to complete the people's democratic revolution in China.

The article then outlines the development of "This singular bureaucratic capitalism under KMT rule." Developing no independent industry, it seized property from the laboring masses and some from the national bourgeoisie "by taking advantage of the state machinery and power, particularly the huge financial organs . . . as well as by an open predatory policy during the Civil War and War of Resistance. . . " Later, after Japan's surrender "under the name of 'taking over' enemy and puppet properties, it seized those properties originally belonging to the people. . . " As a result, the article states, "the more China's bureaucratic capital expanded, the more depressed China's national bourgeoisie became."

The fact that the national bourgeoisie, although exploiting the working class on the one hand, "itself suffered from restrictions, expulsion and harm brought about by imperialism and its agents, China's big bourgeoisie," the article claims, makes it easy to understand "the historic changes of the political attitude of the Chinese national bourgeoisie." From 1927 when it opposed the revolution until the present, when some national bourgeoisie have participated in the People's Political Consultative Council, the article states, "Though. . . the Chinese national bourgeoisie has shown a wavering and wait-and-see attitude, yet on the whole they never surrendered to the KMT reactionaries."

The article claims the national bourgeoisie has a "doublefaced" character due to its contradictions with imperialism and the bureaucratic bourgeoisie on the one hand and with the working class and peasantry on the other. At definite times it joins the revolution against imperialism, while at other times there is the danger that it will follow the big bourgeoisie and support the anti-revolutionary struggle. Therefore, the article states, even while uniting with the national bourgeoisie, it is imperative to carry out certain struggles against it.

Unity with the national bourgeoisie, the article maintains, is absolutely necessary to raise the backward economic conditions of China. However, this does not mean the uncontrolled development of private capital and the danger of China travelling the road to capitalism. It quotes from Articles 30 and 31 of the Common Program to show how this is guarded against, and how the national bourgeoisie's private economic undertakings will work instead for "the future of Chinese socialism."

Northeast and are now at a breeding station in Tiehling in east Liaohsi province.

Among the animals are large-sized white pigs of the Ukraine, noted for their rapid growth and sheep noted for their high wool quality. Importation of these breeds is expected to improve the livestock of the Northeast and first-class animals are anticipated for thousands of farms in this area. In addition, many new instruments for artificial insemination have been imported from the USSR which will go a long way in speeding up the rate of propagation of pedigree stock.

East China Harvest

FROM the various provinces of east China have come reports on the high caliber wheat crops now being harvested. An average yield of 10 quintals per hectare—the best in 20 years—is reported from Fukien. In this southeast province the harvest has been almost completed and new wheat is already reaching the market.

In Shantung, with a total of 3,000,000 hectares of wheat, the average is just slightly under the Fukien level. This was in spite of the excessive rain in some areas of the province. According to *NCNA*, the successful crop in Shantung was due to the enthusiasm of the peasants and the organization of manpower throughout the province, where land reform has largely been completed.

In north Anhwei, which was hit by serious floods last year, two-thirds of the area is reported having a good harvest. Other districts in east China, such as south Anhwei, north and south Kiangsu and Chekiang are all reporting average yields.

Purchasing Power Raised

IN the Northeast, following land reform, the purchasing power of 30,000,000 peasants has been raised by almost 70 percent. A *NCNA* Mukden report states that the total purchasing power of farmers in the Northeast amounted to 3,340,000 tons of *kaoliang* and this amount is expected to increase to 5,660,000 tons for the current year. This raise in rural buying power augurs well for extensive development of industry and commerce.

With the resumption and development of agricultural production following the completion of land reform, demand for agricultural implements has increased speedily. During the first two months of this year, the Rural Area Service Society in Harbin helped the farmers in purchasing large amounts of farm tools.

Meanwhile, farmers throughout the area are reported in need of large consignments of cotton cloth as a result of this boosted buying ability. Despite the fact that the head office of the China Cotton Yarn and Cotton Cloth Company in the Northeast shipped 800,000 bolts of cloth from various localities during the past month, the supply was still insufficient to meet the demand. In considering the present large demand for cloth, it has been pointed out that the Northeast ever since the Japanese occupation almost two decades ago has suffered from a cloth shortage.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

THE PHILIPPINES

An Old Story

MORE and more the Philippine story is beginning to sound like China a few years ago. By now it has become evident that the Quirino government is incapable of putting down the people's movement in the islands. Despite government labels of "outlaws," "bandits" and "dissidents," it is apparent that popular resistance to the present regime stems from a discontented peasantry.

As the situation becomes more ominous for the Manila regime even supporters such as the US, sensing another Chiang Kai-shek type of fiasco, are hastening to point out the corruption running rampant through the government. Following the establishment of new Philippine import controls, which the Commerce and Industry Association of New York has claimed will cause heavy losses to American exporters, a number of stories have appeared in the American press regarding danger signs in this part of the world.

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ONE of the spokes in Colonel McCormick's Chicago-Washington-New York press axis, the *New York Daily News*, sees the "Communists in the Philippines openly preparing for armed revolution. They boast that they will be strong enough to seize control of the government within a year." According to a story from the *Daily News'* Manila correspondent, Americans, both official and businessmen, see the "Communists" successful in the future. "A crisis has developed because of the unpopularity of President Quirino's government, and widespread corruption is reaching clearly up to cabinet level. Documented charges have been made against numerous officials. . . "

According to the same story, "Quirino himself has little popular support, due partly to the strong-arm methods, whereby the Liberal Party won the elections last November, and partly due to the fact that he uses his poor health as an excuse to spend most of his time at Baguio, a comfortable mountain resort, and neglects his Manila office."

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AS America set into motion machinery for money and material to southeast Asia even the ultra-conservative *Reader's Digest* was feeling a little uneasy. An article in its June issue by one of its roving correspondents painted the Philippine picture dark black. The article charged that political and economic corruption in the islands was rampant and revealed a deep discontent among the people which has brought the country to the "brink of communism."

The Philippines were found to be another China in embryo and the article went on to charge many high officials of the Quirino regime as being "astonishingly dishonest." The author stated that in last November's elections "every devise known to fraudulent elections was used." He said bribery of under-paid tax officials is rampant and collusion between revenue officers and tax payers was costing the government 75 percent of its collectible taxes.

President of the Senate Avelino's bank account was said to have risen from $3,000 to $500,000 within two years' time partly from the illegal sale of US Army surplus material. When the Philippines acquired US war surplus equipment officials ignored bids and let their friends buy it at low figures.

The corruption in the Philippines extended into the realm of Chinese immigration with many entry permits being distributed among Congressmen for sale to wealthy Chinese. Avelino was said to have kept 40 permits himself in order to sell them for $1,500 or more. With the "decay in Quirino's administration, many Filipinos are turning to the Hukbalahaps," according to the *Reader's Digest*.

"Outlaws" Welcomed

WHILE American criticism became sharper, the domestic scene was far from a bed of roses. Informed observers have pointed out that the most "ominous feature" of recent raids by armed bands of "outlaws" in central and south-central Luzon is the fact that the inhabitants of the area welcome the "outlaws." At the same time it is noted that government troops and various law-enforcement organizations which are sent to suppress the "outlaws" are feared by the population.

A report from San Pablo, 50 miles south of Manila, which was entered and held for one night by a large body of armed raiders, stated that the city assumed a carnival air as soon as its citizens noted the calm discipline of the outlaws. When they realized that the operation was being confined to the liquidation of the Constabulary Post and the seizure of supplies from alien stores, the reports say, the public mingled peacefully with them until the raiders made off again to the nearby mountains.

Reports from various parts of the provinces north and south of Manila clearly indicate that law-abiding residents believe there is a great deal more to be feared from the constabulary, army and special police forces than from the "outlaws." The same stories compare "the strong discipline of the outlaws and their obvious care in courting the respect of the population by restricting their attacks" with "the many soldiers who are 'trigger happy' and shoot down helpless citizens at the least provocation." It is also reported that some government men even sell fire-arms to the Hukbalahap and other "criminals."

INDO-CHINA

New American Frontier

ANOTHER important spokesman of the right-wing American press has recently devoted considerable attention to still another Asian "danger spot." Henry Luce's *Time* magazine sees Indo-China as a "new frontier" for the US as well as a "new ally in the cold war." According to *Time*, which for years advocated large-scale aid to Chiang in China, "more than French weariness and prestige are at stake. If Indo-China falls to Communism, so in all probability will all of southeast Asia."

Taking the line of French inability to stem the tide in Indo-China, the magazine informs its readers, "The French have made more than usual colonial mistakes. All too often, especially since they put the Foreign Legion and its German mercenaries [ex-Nazi prisoners of war which includes Hitler's Stormtroopers] to work restoring order after World War Two, they have been arrogant and brutal toward the Indo-Chinese. They are paying for it now, for the bulk of Ho Chi Minh's support comes from anti-French or anti-colonial Indo-Chinese. . . "

US Men and Money

TWO hard facts for the American public to realize, according to *Time*, are that both men and money in Indo-China will be required. According to the order listed in the article, money comes first but American troops will also be needed. For Americans the first fact about the "new frontier" is that it will cost money to hold—"much more than the French can pay alone, much more than the $15,000,000 in arms and $23,000,000 in economic aid thus far promised by Washington.

"The second fact is more compelling. The new frontier, if it is not to gamble, may need US troops as well as French. Otherwise the US might suffer another catastrophic defeat in the Far East." Apparently *Time*, highly representative of a certain amount of official thinking in America, is beginning to get more than merely concerned about some of America's bastions in the east.

Investment Guarantees

WHILE the US got ready for sizable outlays of cash for Indo-China as well as the rest of southeast Asia, US Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer called upon American businessmen to help solve the complicated problems of foreign investments.

According to Sawyer, the US will "continue efforts to negotiate trade treaties with other countries for the purpose of guaranteeing the same rights to our investors in other countries which they enjoy in our own." However, he added, "treaties alone are not sufficient."

By the beginning of the month reports from Washington stated that the first shipment of US arms to Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos is expected to sail "in the near future." The arms are to be sent under the mutal defense assistance program.

During its early stages, it is reported, the arms are being financed out of a $15,000,000 appropriation earmarked for the general area of China. However, it is expected that a substantially larger sum is to be appropriated for southeast Asia for the year beginning July 1.

In Paris, the far from radical French Socialist Congress for the first time issued a conditional call for the eventual withdrawal of French forces from Indo-China. The congress also adopted a motion asking the government to lay the Indo-China problem before the United Nations Security Council.

MALAYA

Struggle for Dollars

BRITAIN'S biggest dollar earner in the Sterling area, Malaya, witnessed the winding up of War Minister John Strachey's tour of the colony. The author of "The Coming Struggle for Power," a "radical" a good deal of his time inspecting tome of a by-gone age, spent British forces in the area. Meanwhile, his colleague, Colonial Secretary James Griffiths, was engaged in consultations with colonial officials and spokesmen for the rubber and tin interests.

While Strachey failed to encounter any insurgents on his Malaya journey, press accounts of his activities revealed that he went into the jungle with a rifle to join in the fight. He was reported to have joined a Gurkha jungle patrol, searching for a guerilla camp, and stalked through the jungle with them for nearly two hours. Strachey's comment was that the jaunt showed him how tough jungle operations were.

A Malacca dispatch reveals the extent to which security was enforced during the time the two British officials spent in Malaya. "Traveling in a convoy, their cars sandwiched between two armored cars and five scout cars manned by guards, they sped through several danger areas on their way to Selangor, Negri, Sembilan and Malacco.

"Jungle squads were dispersed off the road at likely ambush points and the route was swept by security forces ahead of the convoy. The official cars were covered by twin machine-guns, which swung menacingly in the direction of the jungle."

At one stop near the Malacca border, Strachey said that he would tell the people of Great Britain that the fact Malayan village guards had guns provided by the government and that they were using them on the side of the government in the struggle against lawlessness was proof that the Malay people were with "us" in this struggle.

As the War Minister wound up his trip two more steps in the war against the guerillas became effective. The death penalty is to be meted out to people who collect subscriptions or receive supplies for the use of the insurgents. At the same time the penalty for unlawful possession or rubber has been increased. In Singapore, an official spokesman said there was evidence of widespread theft of rubber and that the proceeds were finding their way into the hands of guerillas. Maximum prison terms for this offense have been extended.

Australian Aid

THE situation in Malaya must be cleared up as soon as possible, according to Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies. Taking time off from his campaign to outlaw the Communist Party, Menzies announced that the government had decided to give aid to Britain in Malaya following a British request. The preliminary Australian help will be in the form of planes and crews as well as serving RAF aircraft. The first squadron will comprise 168 crew members and ground staff.

According to Menzies, Australia has a vital interest in the area of Malaya, where the position has deteriorated considerably in the past few months. "Australia will cooperate to the fullest possible extent on plans evolved after the Colombo and Sydney conferences" (on economic aid to southeast Asia), he said.

Dock Workers Strike

IN New Zealand, dockers belonging to the New Zealand Waterside Union will refuse to handle any cargo of war materials bound for Malaya, according to an announcement of the union's president. He said: "The impending visit to New Zealand of Field-Marshal Slim, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, who led the Burma campaign is significant. Our organization is alarmed at the general trend."

This New Zealand union, with a history of action against supplying aggressors, refused to load scrap iron for Japan, wool for Franco Spain, or to work any Dutch ship during the Indonesia dispute.

GERMANY

Peace, Not War

FROM the scare headlines and stories coming from Berlin in anticipation of the East Germany Free German Youth peace rally the stage appeared set for hostilities. All along the 25-mile East-West sector boundary British and American troops in full battle equipment stood by ready for action "at any possible trouble." Altogether, in west Berlin, nearly 25,000 police and Allied troops were ready to go into action. Came Whitsun (religious holiday in the West) and, to the embarrassment of those who predicted a "Communist uprising," all was quiet as more than 500,000 peace rally marchers held their parade.

In a parade which was held partly in the rain, and partly in sunshine, the marchers kept the peace with marked cheerfulness and enthusiasm. The only explosion was a leaflet bomb, fired from west Berlin, which burst over the heads of the paraders, containing anti-Soviet material. West German press reports reveal that "the tension of weeks, heightened by allegations the Communists would use the peace rally 'to invade and capture' the Western sectors, started to slip away with the dawn."

When American, British and French military leaders all went up in helicopters to survey the scene all they could find was that the main street of the Soviet sector of the city was shimmering with all the colors of the rainbow. The Anglo-American-French combined news center, set up as a "war room" to collate reports on the situation had no incidents to report. Bulletins issued almost every hour showed that everything was quiet.

Two Views on Germany

Cartoon at left, showing connection between German militarists and industrialists, is by Fitzpatrick in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and is titled, "Beware of this mobilization." Cartoon at right, from the *New Republic*, shows jailed Nazi-industrialist asking if his war damages will be paid by the American government.

GREAT BRITAIN

Black Death

BRITISH coal miners are losing men at the rate of 1,000 men every month, according to the president of the Scottish Area of the National Union of Mine Workers. He said that the demand for wage increases was "justified a thousand times over by the increase in the cost of living since 1947."

The dreaded "Black Death" of the South Wales coalfields last year claimed more than three times as many miners' lives as pit accidents —the heaviest toll in its history. "Black Death" is the miners' name for pneumoconiosis, a disease caused by the action of coal dust on the lungs. During last year 12,618 miners with pneumoconiosis applied for disablement certificates, and 3,809 were certified as being disabled in some degree.

Return from USSR

THE leader of a delegation of 20 British trade union members, who returned to London after a two-weeks' tour organized by the British-Soviet Friendship Society, said the workers were the masters in the Soviet Union.

The delegation's leader, Fred Hollingsworth, also stated that elections in the USSR were democratic and there was no limit to what the workers could earn so long as they produced. He charged the "capitalist press" with "painting false pictures of the Soviet Union. Those pictures are quite unlike the real position."

British press reports emphasized the fact that three of the 20 members did not agree with the other delegates. One opined that "we are better off here," although he added that England did not possess places of rest and culture like those in the Soviet Union. Another of the minority said there were lots of things in the USSR with which he could not agree. He said the group saw women in coal mines and sweeping the streets. At the same time, this delegate of the 20-man group said that the USSR "would pass us in 10 years if we stood where we were. They are progressing, but I would still rather live in England," he added.

Strikes for Britain

FOLLOWING the decision of the Trades Union Congress to accept the continuation of the government's "wage freeze" system, strikes were called by bargemen and railway workers in London. Along the Thames river front, it was feared that the bargemen's strike, which could paralyze the shipment of goods to the continent, might herald a new widespread stoppage in the port.

Meanwhile, 1,500 members of the London Motor Cab Drivers Union solidly backed a strike of London taxi drivers. Four thousand drivers belonging to the Transport and General Workers Union already were idle. Although the small companies had accepted the strikers terms of a 20 percent increase in their share of the takings, the large firms which operate fleets of cabs were firm in their refusal to negotiate with the striking cabbies.

LETTERS

(Continued from Page 19)

should be to alter with the development of the situation, which means that we must study according to the revolution's demands. In other words, we must keep pace with reality.

Some ignorant fellows may vilify us, saying: "Now look, they, the so-called progressive members, are beginning to confess their errors. In the past they used to shout high-sounding slogans, dance the yang ko, hold small group meetings, fill sandbags and stage demonstrations in the streets. But now they want to study. Isn't that wonderful?" Such statements spring from an entire ignorance of the importance of our political work.

There has arisen a high tide of study in Fuhtan. Wherever you go you can find students poring over their books; the library, reference house and magazine room are always full of assiduous students with bulky volumes under their noses, studying. There are not a few who study so hard that they forget their meals. It is really a pleasant sight to see boys and girls lying on the campus lawn in twos and threes, discussing lessons and exchanging views about their work. Such a picture holds out great promise for the future of new China.

In short, we students have spent much time in reshaping our thought. Now that our thought has been duly reformed, it is only fit that we should devote ourselves to study. If there still are any lazy students who ignore the importance of study, we may well call them the "scum of society."

FRANCIS H. CHOW

Fuhtan University
Shanghai
May 12, 1950

DR. W. W. YEN

To the Editor:

Dr. W. W. Yen, world-known scholar, diplomat and philanthropist passed away last week at his residence in Shanghai. The people deeply mourn the loss of their beloved "old man of peace," an honorable title which he earned almost at the cost of his life.

The people are indebted to the late philanthropist not only because of the yeoman service he rendered China, but also because he stood firmly with the toiling masses at all times. In the dark days of the Japanese occupation he turned down resolutely the enemy's offers for collaboration. He made it clear at the very outset that he would prefer to die than betray the people. He lived simply in this metropolis, renouncing all social activity until the surrender of the Japanese in 1945.

With the return of the KMT reactionaries to Shanghai he was again offered a high position by the bogus National Government. Again he turned down all offers of the corrupt KMT officials.

After the KMT collapsed under the thunderbolt of the People's Army, Dr. Yen did not waver at the call of honor. When he was elected one of the five-man peace delegation he did not hesitate to accept the appointment inspite of his advanced age, his deteriorating health and the objection of his doctor. He made his maiden airplane flight at the age of 71, when he was suffering from heart disease. But the KMT diehards had no intention for peace and sanguinary fighting followed in the wake of the delegation.

With the inauguration of the People's Government, Dr. Yen was elected Deputy Chairman to the East China Bureau. Owing to his illness, however, he was never able to assume his office fully. He passed away at a time when his valuable service was most direly needed. His death has filled the people with a sense of personal loss.

GEORGE C. WANG

Shanghai
May 29, 1950

FAITH AND PEACE

To the Editor:

I have found your paper very helpful in keeping me up to date as to what is going on throughout China, as well as in the rest of the world.

I am a member of a Christian fellowship which sees a very definite relationship between faith and social justice, and we have been working for a long time in America and other lands for the elimination of intolerance and hatred between races, classes, cultural groups, and nations. Our international missions' projects are one aspect of a great program seeking to bring about good-will and love between folks of different nations and cultures and aiming to alleviate and eliminate suffering. We seek to cooperate with all groups which aim to liberate man from sin and oppression, be it on an individual or social level; and we strive to give wholehearted support to all those who are concerned and working for justice, understanding, and peace.

We recognize too the value of the press in creating world opinion and leading the nations into ways of mutual trust and helpfulness. As a western paper in China, the Review can play a unique role in breaking down barriers and excesses of doubt and fear and should be a vital instrument toward the creation of a peaceful world community.

My best wishes for successful reporting and significant accomplishments for the Cause of Brotherhood and Peace!

W. H. D.

Yuanling, Hunan
May 23, 1950

A DISSATISFIED READER

To the Editor:

This is the first letter I have written you and I am sorry that in this letter I am manifesting my dissatisfaction over the Review so far as its content is concerned.

The term "content" has nothing to do with politics, but purely refers to the "capacity" of the Review itself. As a matter of fact, I have been a reader of the Review for some time. I became acquainted with it as early as two years ago. Formerly, I found that the Review was a worthy publication, for it was always full of interesting articles on important subjects. One really could learn quite a lot of things from it about the events that took place in China and abroad.

But lately I have been quite disappointed by it. The Review in its recent issues seems to have difficulty in filling its pages with significant material. It has been a constant practice that articles of unessential subjects, such as those criticizing plays and cinemas and the stories translated from the newspapers have become the major items in recent publications. These articles have habitually occupied almost half of the whole issue.

I don't understand the use of publishing so many articles of this kind in the Review since it is not the type of magazine concerned with movies, plays and stories. I don't know whether or not the Review has lately undergone a change in its nature that this sort of article has become the essential item for its publication. If this is the case, I personally would not agree with it.

Y. P. KIANG

Changsha, Hunan
June 1, 1950

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(It is quite true that the Review has recently been carrying more translations of short stories and reviews of movies and plays than in the past. However, this is not due to any "change in its nature" but because a number of readers have indicated their preference for more of this type of material. The Review welcomes comments and would be interested in having the views of other readers, either on the points raised by Mr. Kiang or on other features of the paper. — editor)

The Review's English Lesson CXXXIV

Tenses of Verbs

IN English, the tense of verbs is very important, since by the use of "helping" verbs, or by changes in the spelling of the verb, the **time** of the action is indicated. **Tense** thus means **time.** In writing English, it is necessary always to pay attention to the tense of verbs; if the tense is incorrect, the meaning will be unclear. In some cases, where one verb depends upon another, the so-called "sequence of tenses" must be observed correctly for clarity.

In the indicative mood, the one most frequently used, verbs have six tenses, as follows:

Present Tense: Represents an action that occurs, or a condition that exists, now. For example, "The sun **rises,**" "You **walk** too fast," "They **see** us," "She **is** in the living room." These examples are in the "simple present tense," but there are other forms of the present tense that are more frequently used. In conversation, for instance, a form that combines the verb "to be" with another verb, is quite often used. Thus, we would be more likely to say, "The sun **is rising,**" than "The sun rises," which today has a stiff "bookish" sound. Similarly, we say, "You **are walking** too fast," "I **am reading** that book." These describe actions. Usually, with verbs that describe a state or condition, as "She **is** in the living room," the form with "to be" is not used. We never say, "She **is being** in the living room."

Past tense: Describes an action, state or condition that took place or existed at some past time. This is often called the "simple past tense." Using the above examples, we have, "The sun **rose,**" "You **walked** too fast," "They **saw** us," "She **was** in the living room." Notice that, although this form of the verb clearly indicates that the time is past, it does not fix the time. To do this, the exact time must be stated, as "The sun **rose** at six o'clock," "Yesterday they **saw** us at the movies," "She **was** in the living room a few minutes ago." Notice that, in the simple present tense, the time need not be mentioned. The reader assumes that it refers to the present, to "now," but sometimes for emphasis, "now" may be added, or some other time-phrase, such as "these days," as in "They **see** us now" (they haven't been able to see us until now).

Future Tense: As with the simple past tense, the future tense indicates that the action or state will occur or will exist at some time in the future. A time phrase need not be used, but is often added for greater accuracy, as in "The sun **will rise** tomorrow at five o'clock," "I'll go, if you promise you **will not walk** too fast," "They **will see** us tomorrow at lunch," "She **will be** in the house all evening."

A particularly important point about the future tense is the usage of "shall" and "will." In expressing the simple idea of futurity, "shall" should be used with "I" and "we"; "will" with "you," "he," "she," "it," and "they." In writing, this difference is more apparent than it is in speaking, for in conversation "I shall" is usually contracted to "I'll," "they will" to "they'll," and so on.

However, if the speaker is determined, or insists upon, doing something, or being something, the above rule is reversed. Thus, one might say, "I'll (I shall) get up early tomorrow morning," meaning that it is easy to get up early, and one is merely stating a decision. But if one has an important reason for getting up early, and is determined not to oversleep, he might say, "I **will** get up early tomorrow morning." Often the "will" is underlined for greater emphasis. Notice that, in this use of "shall" and "will" to express determination, the contracted forms are seldom if ever used.

Perfect Tense: Also called the present perfect tense. In this tense, the present tense of "to have" is used with the verb, as in "The sun **has risen,**" "You **have walked** too fast," "They **have seen** us," "She **has been** in the living room." This is called the "perfect" tense because the action or state is "perfect" (completed) now. Although the difference between this and the simple past seems slight, actually it is important. For single events that happened once, as in a news report or a story, the simple past tense should be used, not the perfect tense. It is incorrect to say, "Yesterday a new branch of the People's Bank has opened;" it should be simply "opened." The perfect tense is mainly used to show close connection between an event in the recent past and the present time, as in "He **has been** here already." That is, now we find that he has been here and is no longer here.

Past Perfect Tense: While the perfect tense indicates an action completed now, the past perfect tense indicates an action that was completed ("perfected") at some time in the past. Thus, "Yesterday, when we started, the sun **had risen.**" The action (sun rising) was already completed at the time spoken of (yesterday). "They complained that you **had walked** too fast." "When we reached the house, we found that they **had seen** us." "They asked her how long she **had been** in the living room." With this tense, the form "they had" is often contracted in speech to "they'd," as in "When we reached their house, we found they'd already left."

Future Perfect: This is used to indicate an action that will be completed at some future time. Here again, "shall" and "will" are used, in the same way as in the simple future. "If we sleep until seven tomorrow, the sun **will have risen** already." "If we wait another week, they **will have seen** us somewhere around the village." "By next June, Shanghai **will have seen** its second anniversary of Liberation." "In two weeks' time, I **shall have completed** my novel." Here again, in speech, "they will" is contracted to "they'll," and so on.

In writing, pay close attention to the verbs, and ask yourself exactly what **time** is indicated by each verb. The above rules may serve as a guide for correct tense.

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